

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

SP-02 L-01 EUR-08 SAM-01 PM-03 DODE-00 MC-01 EB-03

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6494

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

S E C R E T AMMAN 9957

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, MO, SP AG, MR

SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING HUSSEIN -- MAURITANIA

1. IN THE COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH KING DECEMBER 28 HE RAISED SUBJECT OF MAURITANIA. HE NOTED HE HAD JUST FINISHED SPEAKING WITH MAURITANIAN MINISTER OF INFORMATION MR. AHMAD WOLD TOLBEH WHO HAD BROUGHT HIM A LETTER THANKING JORDAN FOR ITS SUPPORT. KING SAID MAURITANIAN MINISTER HAD TOLD HIM OF ACTIVE FIGHTING ON WHAT KING UNDERSTOOD WAS MAURITANIAN TERRITORY BETWEEN MAURITANIAN FORCES AND POLISARA FRONT SUPPORTED BY ALGERIANS. ALGERIANS HAD ALSO SENT HOME MAURITANIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

2. KING SAID HE HAD TOLD MAURITANIAN MINISTER HE WOULD TRY TO FIND PLACES IN JORDAN UNIVERSITY FOR MAURITANIAN STUDENTS. AS FOR MAURITANIAN FORCES, HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO OFFER TRAINING IN JORDAN AND ADVISORS TO ASSIST. HE SAID HE HAD THE IMPRESSION

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THAT MAURITANIAN MILITARY WAS WEAK AND BADLY OUTNUMBERED.

3. AS FOR MATERIEL ASSISTANCE TO MARUITANIAN MILITARY, KING HAD RECOMMENDED THAT MAURITANIANS SEEK SAUDI SUPPORT TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT WHICH MAURITANIA NEEDED DIRECTLY FROM THE US OR OTHER FRIENDLY SUPPLIERS. HE ASKED IF WE WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO EXPEDITE DELIVERIES. HE SAID UPON REFLECTION HE DID NOT WANT TO GET INTO A POSITION OF PROVIDING EQUIPMENT FROM JORDANIAN STOCKS AND LATER SEEKING REPLACEMENT FROM THE US WITH SAUDI FINANCING.

4. I TOLD KING THAT AS HE ALREADY KNEW WE MUST BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF ANY TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT OF US ORIGIN HE WAS CONTEMPLATING AND THAT HIS SUGGESTIONS OF A DIRECT MAURITANIAN APPROACH TO THE SAUDIS SEEMED BEST TO ME. I TOLD HIM FURTHER THAT I DID NOT KNOW WHETHER MAURITANIANS QUALIFY FOR OFFER FOR FMS PURCHASES FROM THE UNITED STATES OR FOR LICENSES FOR COMMERCIAL EXPORTS, BUT WOULD TRY TO FIND OUT FOR HIM.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: INFORMATION ON MAURITANIAN ELIGIBILITY FOR FMS AND COMMERCIAL PURCHASES OF ARMAMENTS FROM THE UNITED STATES FOR KING HUSSEIN. PICKERING

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, STUDENTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975AMMAN09957
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750448-0708
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975129/aaaaahmh.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <31 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALK WITH KING HUSSEIN -- MAURITANIA
TAGS: PFOR, JO, MO, SP, AG, MR, (HUSSEIN I)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006